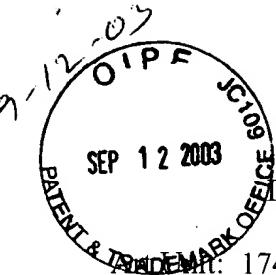


09-15-03



PATENT
030403-5 (formerly T268.12-0041)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: :
:

In re application of: :
Schmidt et al. :
:

Serial No.: 09/803,721 :
:

Filing Date: March 9, 2001 :
:

VIAL HANDLING SYSTEM WITH IMPROVED
VIAL GRIPPER

1743
RECEIVED
SEP 17 2003
TC 170025
63

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

September 12, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

Applicants, in accordance with the duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, hereby advise the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the references listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08 *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* (substitute for Form 1449A/PTO). A copy of each of the cited references is herewith enclosed.

Express Mail Number ER524410202US

Date of Deposit September 12, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

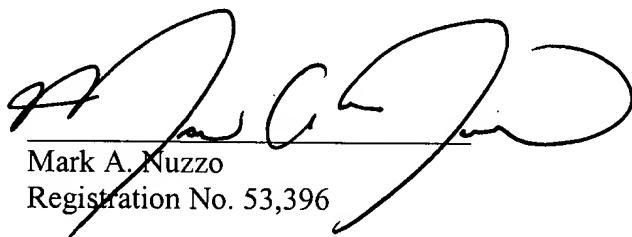
Patricia A. Mach

Applicants note that although the cited references may be relevant to the examination of the above-referenced application, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* "shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b)."

Applicants further note that the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* is not an admission that the references cited herein constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102-103 with respect to the captioned application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), Applicants submit that no fee is necessary for consideration of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant*. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additionally required fees deemed necessary for consideration of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* to Account No. 11-1110.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Nuzzo
Registration No. 53,396

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2312

Telephone: (412) 355-6292
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501
e-mail: mnuzzo@kl.com



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
You are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a
valid OMB control number

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----|---|--|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|---------|----------|------|---------------|--|
| <p>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p>(use as many sheets as necessary)</p> | | | | <p><i>Complete if Known</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Application Number</td> <td>09/803,721</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>March 9, 2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Schmidt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit</td> <td>1743</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | | Application Number | 09/803,721 | Filing Date | March 9, 2001 | First Named Inventor | Schmidt | Art Unit | 1743 | Examiner Name | |
| Application Number | 09/803,721 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Filing Date | March 9, 2001 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| First Named Inventor | Schmidt | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Art Unit | 1743 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Examiner Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 2 | Attorney Docket Number | 030403-5 (T268.12-0041) | | | | | | | | | | |

Examiner Signature _____ Date Considered _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



/SB/08B (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|----|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | | | <i>Complete if Known</i> | |
| | | | | Application Number | 09/803,721 |
| | | | | Filing Date | March 9, 2001 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Schmidt |
| | | | | Art Unit | 1743 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | |
| Sheet | | 2 | of | 2 | Attorney Docket Number |
| | | | | | 030403-5 (T268.12-0041) |

RECEIVED
TC
SEP 11 2003
100

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | | | T ² |
| | | United States Patent Application No. 09/803,405 filed March 9, 2001. (Attorney Docket No. 030403-1) | | | |
| | | United States Patent Application No. 09/803,407 filed March 9, 2001. (Attorney Docket No. 030403-2) | | | |
| | | United States Patent Application No. 09/803,412 filed March 9, 2001. (Attorney Docket No. 030403-3) | | | |
| | | United States Patent Application No. 09/803,414 filed March 9, 2001. (Attorney Docket No. 030403-4) | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.